MQA-6: TRAINING TOOLS

PREREQUISITES: MQA-4, MQA-5

REQUIRED READING: None

PURPOSE: Familiarize ALO with training tools available and how to schedule them.

Introduction - (Slide 2)

As a new ALO you will find that there are many training opportunities available at your Army post. This training may utilize various simulators, ranges, and trainers that could prove invaluable for the motivation and knowledge of your airmen. You should utilize the various training facilities to prepare for upcoming exercises and deployments, and to expose your airmen to the different Army training tools. The training tools to be discussed in this lesson include:

- Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT)
- JANUS
- Small Arms Ranges
- Navigation Courses
- Confidence Courses
- Fort Hood Training Areas
- Observed Fire Trainer (OFT)
- Bombing Ranges (Local and TDY)

Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) – (Slide 3)

The CCTTs are Army simulators, much like the flight simulators you are used to. The difference is that instead of flying aircraft you fly armored vehicles and HMWWVs. So why does the Army have CCTTs? They are used for the same reasons that the Air Force uses simulators: they're inexpensive, flexible, and safe. Although the Army uses the CCTTs to practice large force maneuvers and comms, ALOs can use CCTTs for CAS-related training. They allow your airmen to practice CAS communications through 62 programmable scenarios which provide aircraft, enemy tanks, and accurate terrain representation. Although the CAS simulation takes a few minutes to get used to, it is valuable for practicing the various planning factors and radio calls required to control CAS.

If interested in scheduling the CCTTs you should contact 3 ASOG Scheduling at 287-1909. At least a weeks notice is usually required to get onto the CCTT schedule. Before they let you jump into the driver's seat you're men will be required to listen to a short briefing. They should bring maps and FAC kits in order to plan the mission as if real-world training was being accomplished. The Fort Hood CCTTs are located in building 22027, behind the 712th ASOS. It is the largest building in that area and should be easy to find.

JANUS – (Slide 4)

Brigade Command Post Exercise. More commonly know as a JANUS exercise, these simulations are full brigade and battalion TOC and TAC computer driven exercises conducted in close vicinity to the JANUS simulation building. Battalion and brigade TOCs and TACs are placed in the vicinity of the JANUS building with full TOC and TAC manning (including the appropriate battalion and brigade TACPs). There are no maneuver elements and forward TACPs. JANUS exercises are executed at the TOC and TAC level just like a field exercise – the brigade ALO is involved from MDMP through the battle and the AAR. The same is true for the EBALO or battalion ETACs at the battalion TOC (BALOs are not sent TDY for these exercises). Since there are no "maneuver TACPs" involved, all control of the simulated CAS are best done using positive-indirect control from the appropriate TOC or TAC.

There is also a requirement for Air Force support in both the simulation cell and the evaluation team (White Force). The simulation cell is located in the JANUS building and "fly" the CAS aircraft in the computer simulation. The simulation cell can be composed of ETACs from one of the squadron's brigade TACPs that are not participating in the exercise or "maneuver TACPs" from the participating flight (using a non-participating TACP for the simulation cell is a preferred technique – this gives young ETACs and ROMADs who are normally forward the opportunity to get experience at the battalion and brigade TOCs – building a knowledge base as future EBALOs).

The AF portion of the White Force is normally composed of a skeleton crew from the division TACP. A single ALO or senior ETAC and ROMAD on duty with a single MRC-144 can provide adequate simulation of both the division TACP and the ASOC. The division ALO can get the ATO from the G-3 Air (or may be asked to produce the ATO), and then is essentially "on his own" for the simulation. This is the only expected involvement above the brigade level during JANUS.

Small Arms Ranges – (Slide 5)

Small arms ranges are used to maintain required "mission ready" currency on the M-9 (officers) and M-16 (all others). The primary small arms range utilized by the 3rd ASOG at Fort Hood is "Pilot Knob Small Arms Range" (PK-Small Arms) located on South Range Road. There are a plethora of ranges, but PK-Small Arms is best suited to the needs of Air Force shooters. There are quite a few things to consider when tasked to organize a shoot. It must first be determined who needs to shoot and which weapon will be used. Your squadron training shop should meet this requirement. Next, the range must be scheduled through the 3 ASOG Scheduling (287-1909) or the appropriate group scheduling office. This is normally done by the group Combined Arms Training and Maintenance (CATMs) representative. This Air Force weapons expert is also the person who conducts all weapons academics, ensures that the Army provides the correct type and amount of ammunition, and serves as the Range Safety Officer (RSO) during the shoot. He is also the man to answer any questions regarding the details of the shoot. One day before the shoot the RSO and OIC must report to Range Control to physically sign for the range and to receive any and all safety precautions. (Range Control is located on North Road, Building 56000, 287-3321.) Additionally, someone must be designated the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) for accountability and "big picture" safety purposes. As OIC you are responsible for everything that occurs on your range. You will be required to watch a Range Safety video and get a Range Safety Officer card from the Range Control headquarters. In addition, to be able to actually pull the trigger on the range, the OIC must first be given a "hot" clearance from Range Control, and someone must monitor the radios on FM 30.45 for the duration of the shoot. Finally, transportation to and from the range must be coordinated. Keep in mind that weapons may not be transported in privately owned vehicles.

This training is usually enjoyable, but there are a few potential pitfalls. First, live ammunition is always a possible hazard. The OIC (probably the ALO) should ensure that the seriousness of the shoot understood by all involved. Also make sure that a "hot" clearance is received before any shooting begins. Take time to read through the Range Safety book provided by Range Control in order to fully understand the standards and requirements for using the shooting range. Shooting weapons is both necessary for our wartime mission and rewarding. Just make sure that it is a well-planned event.

Navigation Courses – (Slide 6)

There are no formal navigation courses at Ft. Hood, so navigation training is done in-house. It is recommended that courses be designed and checked by NCOs who are familiar with the Ft. Hood ranges. The training area to be used should be scheduled with 3 ASOG Scheduling at 287-1909. Even if another unit has a training area booked, your unit can still use it as long as the proper coordination has taken place. It is also important to check the local NOTAMs and Ground Training Information File (GTIF) for any pertinent range information, to include Water Crossing Site status. Once the planning is complete, safety on the nav course is the primary consideration. Ensure that there is good communication between all parties participating and designate a "Base Control" to coordinate check-ins and emergency procedures. Also make sure that nobody navs alone…teams of three seem to work best. If the nav is taking place at night, check equipment load-outs to ensure working NVGs and radios. If the course is planned and validated in detail it will be an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

Leadership Reaction Course / Confidence Courses – (Slides 7 - 8)

The Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) at Ft. Hood is similar to Project X at Squadron Officers School and other courses you may have participated in college or OTS. The course is divided up into several cubicles, each including a different problem to solve or obstacle to overcome. The solution/s usually involve much more than brute strength, requiring analytical thinking and teamwork. To schedule the LRC contact 3 ASOG Scheduling at 287-1909. (Do not plan on using the LRC on Thursday because the Army uses it heavily that day.) This wonderful, motivational tool really works to build teamwork and confidence (next slide).

A similar teambuilding tool is the Confidence Course, consisting of several field obstacles laid out over several acres. The obstacles usually consist of rope swings, log climbs, low crawls, etc. The course is usually timed, and it is recommended that BDUs be worn with tennis shoes or comfortable combat boots. There are no Confidence Courses at Ft. Hood, but there is one at Lackland A.F.B., Texas, only about 2 hours South. To reserve the Lackland A.F.B. Confidence Course call Lackland A.F.B. Training at DSN 473-2209 at least three weeks in advance. They will brief course requirements and answer any questions you may have.

Fort Hood Training Areas – (Slide 9)

Because there are so many different units competing for training space at Ft. Hood, the post is divided up into over 70 training areas. (Refer to map in your required FAC KIT) The training areas are important to the ALO because their use is crucial for the training of TACPs. A call to 3 ASOG Scheduling (287-1909) will give you some idea who you need to coordinate with although a training area does not always have to be scheduled to use it. If you want exclusive use of a training area, the area has to be booked 45 days in advance. Although this is usually not necessary, ALOs should be aware that many units fighting for the same training space and plan accordingly.

Observed Fire Trainer (OFT) – (Slide 10)

The Observed Fire Trainer was designed to permit realistic instruction to forward observers in the observation and adjustment of artillery fire and fire planning. The OFT simulates the visual effects that an observer can expect to experience in an observation post (OP) when overlooking a typical battlefield. The OFT can also be used for exercise preplanning, basic and advanced map reading, and terrain recognition training. The OFT itself is a digital computer based trainer that can simulate the visual and audio effects of three 6-gun batteries, each equipped with 155mm guns with a variety of ammunition types. A variety of targets can also be simulated including machine guns, wheeled and tracked vehicles, and helicopters. TACPs may find it necessary to call for artillery fire on the battlefield, making the OFT an important and necessary training tool. To schedule the OFT at Ft. Hood, call the OFT Coordinator at 287-3374, located in Building #19031. Two to three weeks advance notice is required.

Bombing Ranges (Local and TDY Locations) – (Slide 11)

Local Ranges

There are two bombing ranges used for live CAS at Ft. Hood: Shoal Creek Bombing Range and PD-94 Live Impact Area. In the unlikely event that you have CAS scheduled to come to Ft. Hood, the regulations and procedures for using either of these ranges should be understood and briefed to all players before takeoff. Ensure that the appropriate range has been scheduled (3 ASOG Scheduling 287-1909) before doing extensive planning. It could save you lots of time. 3 ASOG Scheduling also distributes CAS among the various squadrons at Ft. Hood, so coordination with other TACP units may be required.

Procedures for using Shoal Creek or PD-94 are almost identical. Range book and card must be checked out of Range Control at least two hours prior to TOT. TACPs must be at the appropriate OP's at least one hour prior to aircraft arrival, monitoring FM 30.45. Flak vests are required for live munitions drops, and OP's must be approved. Request permission to enter the range from Range Control, call "hot" and "cold" status as appropriate, and monitor Range Control frequency for the duration of the range time. Additionally, check with Hood Radio/Flight Following on VHF 143.1 and 712th ASOS (BIGCAT) on Strike Frequency UHF 276.8/238.8 for aircraft status and fighter handoff. When departing contact Range Control and report number and type of ordinance dropped (BDU-33 or MK-106) and number of personnel trained. Finally, this may be the only CAS you ever see at Ft. Hood, so make

sure that you prepare well. Bring with you an experienced NCO who has used the ranges before, and review the GTIF, check the weather, and review the Shoal Creek/PD-94 Range Books before any bombs ever leave the jets.

TDY Ranges

Because CAS rarely comes to Ft. Hood, most squadrons have to fill CAS control requirements by going TDY. Your squadron mission planning room or Training Office should have a plentiful supply of off-post range books. Many squadrons also have continuity binders detailing the required procedures for scheduling and using military bombing ranges around the USA. The following ranges are used more than others: Goldwater Range Complex at Gila Bend AFAF, Melrose Range at Cannon AFB, Falcon Range at Fort Sill, and Nellis Tactical Ranges at Nellis AFB. Each range has its own regulations and procedures, so plan accordingly. Big picture things to consider:

1. Transportation of radio batteries – They must be in original wrapping or in the radio itself.
2. Fighter support – Many units will send an ADVON team to personally visit each fighter squadron for coordination.
3. Night CAS – Marking devices, NVGs, etc. should be checked before departing home station.
4. Rental Cars – Probably need 4WD vehicles.

Treat these CAS trips with the seriousness and professionalism they deserve. CAS is a serious business, and at an unfamiliar location, it could become dangerous.

Conclusion – (Slide 12)

There are many tools available to train your airmen. Most are under-utilized due to lack of information and motivation. Use the facilities available at Ft. Hood to keep you airmen ready for war, motivated, and physically fit. Although the scheduling aspect of some events may seem tedious, almost all are well worth your time. Plan the events well to ensure good training. Above all, know the potential hazards of the various courses and events in order to prevent unnecessary injury. Have fun!